## 

Nicholas J. Accurso, Esq. (NA 1853) An Associate with the Firm of REARDON & SCLAFANI, P.C. Attorneys for Defendants Avis and PV Holding 220 White Plains Road, Suite 235 Tarrytown, New York 10591 (914) 366-0201

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK -----x DAWN BARKER,

Plaintiffs,

NOTICE OF MOTION

- against -

08 CIV. 4517 (JSR) (JCF)

BRENDA A. ITHIER, PV HOLDING CORP. and AVIS BUDGET GROUP, INC.,

Defendants.

SIRS:

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE, that the defendants PV Holding Corp. and Avis Budget Group, Inc. will move this Court before Hon. Jed S. Rakoff, U.S.D.J., United States District Court, at the United States Courthouse, Room 14A, 500 Pearl Street, New York, New York, for an order pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 56(b), 49 U.S.C. 30106 and New York's Vehicle and Traffic Law §§128 and 388(1) dismissing the complaint against the defendants Avis Budget Group, Inc. and PV Holding Corp. and for such other and further relief as the Court deems just and proper. All opposition papers are to be served and filed by September 2, 2008. Reply papers are to be served and filed by September 9, 2008. Oral argument will be held at 4:00 p.m. on September 16, 2008.

Dated: Tarrytown, New York July 31, 2008

Yours, etc.,

REARDON & SCLAFANI, P.C. Attorneys for Defendants Avis & PV Holding OFFICE & P.O. ADDRESS 220 White Plains Road, Suite 235 Tarrytown, New York 10591 (914) 364, 2204

NICHOLAS J. ACCURSO (NA 1853)

#### CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

The undersigned attorney hereby certifies that on August 1, 2008, he caused to be served a true and correct copy of the within NOTICE OF MOTION AND SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS by ECF to:

TO: Greenstein & Milbauer, LLP
Attorneys for Plaintiff
1825 Park Avenue, 9th Floor
New York, New York 10035

Buratti, Kaplan, McCarthy & McCarthy, Esqs. Attorneys for Defendant Ithier One Executive Boulevard, Suite 280 Yonkers, New York 10701

NACHOLAS U. ACCURSO (NA 1853)

Nicholas J. Accurso, Esq. (NA 1853) An Associate with the Firm of REARDON & SCLAFANI, P.C. Attorneys for Defendants 220 White Plains Road, Suite 235 Tarrytown, New York 10591 (914) 366-0201

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK -----X DAWN BARKER,

Plaintiffs,

STATEMENT PURSUANT TO LOCAL RULE 56.1

- against -

08 CIV. 4517(JSR)(JCF)

BRENDA A. ITHIER, PV HOLDING CORP. and AVIS BUDGET GROUP, INC.,

													D	е	f	e	n	đ	а	n	t	s			
_	_	 _	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	 	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	_		_	_	_	_	- 7	×

#### SIRS:

\_\_\_\_\_

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE, that the defendants Avis Budget Group, Inc. and PV Holding Corp. set forth their statement pursuant to Local Rule 56.1 in support of their instant Notice of Motion pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 56(b) for an order dismissing plaintiff's complaint and granting defendants summary judgment, as follows:

- 1. That this is an action in diversity to recover personal injuries resulting from an alleged motor vehicle accident which occurred on March 12, 2007. Docket #1.
- 2. That the defendants PV Holding Corp. and Avis Budget Group, Inc. are affiliated with Budget Rent a Car System, Inc. All are engaged in the business of renting consumer automobiles to the general public under the "Budget Rent a Car" trade name. See Reiseman affidavit.
  - 3. On March 11, 2007, defendant Brenda A. Ithier rented a

2007 Chevrolet Malibu, Massachusetts plate number 35VB42, from Budget Rent a Car System, Inc. See Reiseman affidavit; Close affidavit; rental agreement; certificate of title.

- 4. That the vehicle referred to in the plaintiff's complaint, a 2007 Chevrolet Malibu alleged to be bearing New York State license plate number 35VB42 and alleged to be operated by the defendant Ithier and is owned by the defendant PV Holding Corp., in actuality, bears Massachusetts license plate number 35VB42. See Docket #1; Reiseman affidavit; rental agreement; certificate of title.
- 5. That the defendant Avis Budget Group, Inc. was not the owner of said 2007 Chevrolet Malibu. See certified title report.
- 6. That plaintiff commenced this action by the filing of a summons and complaint on or about May 2, 2008 in Supreme Court of the State of New York, County of New York. See Docket #1.

Dated: Tarrytown, New York July 31, 2008

Yours, etc.,

REARDON & SCLAFANI, P.C. Attorneys for Defendants PV Holding and Avis OFFICE & P.O. ADDRESS 220 White Plains Road, Suite 235 Tarrytoon, New York 10591

(914) 366-0201

3v:/

MANAS J. ACCURSO (NA 1853)

Nicholas J. Accurso, Esq. (NA 1853) An Associate with the Firm of REARDON & SCLAFANI, P.C. Attorneys for Defendants Avis and PV Holding 220 White Plains Road, Suite 235 Tarrytown, New York 10591 (914) 366-0201

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK DAWN BARKER,

- aqainst -

Plaintiffs,

DECLARATION IN SUPPORT OF DEFENDANTS' MOTION

08 CIV. 4517(JSR)(JCF)

BRENDA A. ITHIER, PV HOLDING CORP. and AVIS BUDGET GROUP, INC.,

Defendants.

Nicholas J. Accurso, an attorney duly admitted to practice before this Court and the Courts of the State of New York, declares the truth of the following under penalty of perjury:

- That I am an associate of the law firm of Reardon & Sclafani, P.C., attorneys for the defendants Avis Budget Group, Inc. and PV Holding Corp.; and am fully familiar with the facts and circumstances of this action. I submit this declaration in support of the instant motion of the defendants Avis Budget Group, Inc. and PV Holding Corp. for an order pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 56(b) and 49 USC 30106 dismissing the plaintiff's complaint against Avis Budget Group, Inc. and PV Holding Corp. and for an order pursuant to Rule 56(b) and New York State Vehicle and Traffic Law §388 dismissing the plaintiff's complaint against Avis Budget Group, Inc.
  - 2. The plaintiff brings this action to recover damages for

personal injuries allegedly sustained in a motor vehicle accident which occurred on March 12, 2007 at approximately 12:15 p.m. on Jerome Avenue 300 feet west of its intersection with East 167th Street in The Bronx. (See  $\P$  22-25 to the complaint at Docket #1.)

- 3. This action was commenced by the filing of a summons and complaint in the New York County Clerk's Office on May 2, 2008. Docket #1. On May 15, 2008, this action was removed to this Court pursuant to 28 USC §§1331, 1332, 1441(a) and 1446(b) based on the complete diversity of citizenship of the parties and the Court's federal question jurisdiction. Id. On May 21, 2008, the defendants Avis Budget Group, Inc. and PV Holding Corp. served their answer. Docket #7. The defendant Brenda Ithier served her answer on or about June 11, 2008.
- 4. At ¶¶"9" and "27" of the plaintiff's complaint, it is alleged that on March 12, 2007, each of the moving defendants owned a 2007 Chevrolet automobile bearing New York State license plate number 35VB42. This is incorrect as the 2007 Chevrolet automobile involved in this accident actually bore Massachusetts plate number 35VB42. See affidavit of Joy Reiseman sworn to on the 30th day of July, 2008, the rental agreement at Exhibit A, the certified title report at Exhibit B and the "certification of no record found" from the New York State Department of Motor Vehicles for plate number 35VB42 at Exhibit C.
  - 5. The certified certificate of title from the State of

3

Massachusetts conclusively shows that the 2007 Chevrolet bearing plate number 35VB42 referred to in plaintiff's complaint is owned by the defendant PV Holding Corp. (See also Reiseman affidavit.)

- That the defendants PV Holding Corp. and Avis Budget Group, Inc. are affiliated with Budget Rent a Car System, Inc. and are engaged in the business of renting automobiles to the general public under the "Budget Rent a Car" trade name. 2007, the subject 2007 Chevrolet Malibu was rented to the defendant Ithier. See Reiseman affidavit and rental agreement at Exhibit A.
- 7. As more fully set forth in the accompanying memorandum of law, pursuant to 49 USC §30106 and New York State Vehicle and Traffic Law §§128 and 388, the defendants Avis Budget Group, Inc. and PV Holding Corp. are entitled to summary judgment dismissing the plaintiff's complaint.

WHEREFORE, it is respectfully requested that the defendants' motion be granted in all respects and that plaintiff's action be denied in its entirety.

**ACCURSO** 

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 31st day of July, 2008:

\$ - GUARANTEED

R - MANHATTAN GOLD (RANKATTAN LOCATIONS UNLY)

CHIRANANANANAN 136	SSIL MINOPALA .	allentoum, va.	18105,US	1143
))RETURN(( RA DUCUMENT 765196256 CART 1 4 9 6 7 6 2 GRP C	RENTED: 11MARO7/1918 A RETURN: 12MARO7/1413R A DUE 1M: 12MARO7/1500 A	T: LAGUARDÍA APO	RATE: n /C TIME: 6	378RZ1 Dy 19 hr
A1 001:17/09 AL IN: 17975 IDIAL ATLES DRIVEN: 266 PLAILS AA 35VU42 AVEL OUT: 8/8 BGE CHEV AALI 40R IULI IN: 6/8		SERVICES******  9/DAY DECLINED  5/DAY DECLINED	266 MI M. 16.89 6 DT Q 22.59 6 DK M. 22.59 6 MG M. 4	
METHOD OF PAYMENT: MASTER 113 UNIVERS LICE USPANNADISE SCHE HEILIA BCD: U024180	6 ESP: 4.0	O/OAY DECLINED S/DAY OECLINED	AIN 10Y/N /C + 11A2 & NILENGE = FUEL SERVICE: .7728/HI 0.545/GAL	42.99
REMARKS: NSV/ HALF HOUR LATE RA DOCUMENT 765135256	•		**11.112 FEE	26.00
			#\$2.00/DAY SURCHAREE *  FOTAL CHANGES AROUNT DUE CV USP  PA PASSENSEM LAR RENT  \$ 12.00/DY PA STATE SUNC  **CONCESSIDA XCCOVERY FE	29.56 29.56 [A] HARGE

ITHIER, BRENDA 162 PENN ESTATES EAST STROUDSBURG, PA, LB301, US

### FASTUREAL

""THE ANOUNT THAT APPEARS IN "ANDUNE DUE" HAS BEEN APPLY. plifed to idax master cand. ---- HAVE READ AND AGREE TO THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS --- ALL CHRRGES AND SUBJECT TO RUDIT AND CHANGE IF ANY SHOWN ON THIS MENTAL DOCUMENT AND ON THE SEPANALE ERRORS ARE FOUND. RENTAL DOCUMENT JACKET DELIVERED TO HE WITH THIS ---THANK YOU FOR RENTING FROM BUDGET. --- alnimum charge is 1 day (24 HRS) Plus dileage. RENTAL DOCUMENT. --- FUEL SERVICES ADD'L IF CAR IS REFURRED WITH LESS A SIGNATURE IS DA FILE..... RENTAL MESSISSES FUEL INAN WHEN HERIEU. KES 4 4//]4407-03-20 ODFC/2906/0/075/19:18/f CLOSED BY: 75528 PREPARED BY: 52241

EXHIBIT "A"

Page 5 of 10 1496762 7F100704

FETT 5 5 5	~~~~~			the state of the s
	4 '4 NAARAA			CHUSETTS
	T. T. FIVE IVEL			
~ ~~~	C CTATTAT	<i> </i>	J I I I \	

TITLENL	JUBER	T .	. VEHICLE IDENTIFICATION NUMBER DAT					TE OF ISSUE
BD3	64789	1.11.12.22.1	1G1ZT581	v3 <i>7</i> F10	07.04	Z		/07/2006
MFRS. MODEL YEAR	MAKE	··-	MODEL NAME		I.ND,	800	Y STYLE/TYPE	NEW/USED
2007	CHEV		MALIBU			. (	SEDAN	NEW
CYL, PASS, ORS.	PURCHASE DA	TE	ODOMETER READIN	NG .		PREV, 71T	LE NO	PREV. TITLE STATE
06 05 4	06/15/20	06	ACTUAL MILE	AGE	if Parviol Registra	IS STATE W	ias title exempt, era kadisulayato	

MAILING ADDRESS ONLY:

BANK OF NEW YORK AS TRUSTEE 300 CENTRE POINTE DR VIRGINIA BEACH, VA 23462

OWNER(S) NAME AND ADDRESS: PV HOLDING CORP 375 MCCLELLAN HWY E BOSTON, MA 02128-1177

FIRST LIENHOLDER:

BANK OF NEW YORK AS TRUSTEE 300 CENTRE POINTE DR VIRGINIA BEACH, VA 23462

	VDEAL		ANIS	
	TELEVA	AD RH	ANDS	
4. 31 1. 2. 2. 2. 2.			( ) -T +	
TITLE TYPE			• • • •	-115
<u></u> -\(\lambda_1\)	• • - 1 1 - 1			." '-,
	- "			· ,
BRAND - 1-			7, ::	
BRAND - 1 -		4.	100	4 37
1	·孟克德·克尔		~ i i:	1-1
BRAND				
BRAND	-F			; ·{-4
11. 1. 1. 1. 1. 1. 1. 1. 1. 1. 1. 1. 1.	<u> </u>		- 7:5-1-	- : :
・ ** ** ** * * * * * * * * * * * * * *	TLÉ MESS	ACEIC		7-3-5
[ ] [ - ] [ ] - [ ] [ E - ] [ ] [ ]	, Jule 22	MOE(S).		4, 12.2
	rija i r	71		7.
			2.7	1
	·		1. / 1	포르되
		-1.1	,	45-1
			27 24 -	2 2 1
in the state of th	A RELIGIES			3 3 1
	7-7-57-7-1			-1 <i>-1</i> -3

SECOND LIENHOLDER:

RELEASE OF FIRST LIEN:	RELI
THE FAST LIENHOLDERS INTEREST IN THE VEHICLE DESCRIBED IN THIS CERTIFICATE IS HEREBY RELEASED	ī⊬EŞ
NAME:	DESC
AUTHORIZĒD SIGNATŪRE:	AUTH X
DATE RELEASED;	DATE

RELEASE OF SECOND LIEN:
THE SECOND LIENHOLDERS INTEREST IN THE VEHICLE DESCRIBED IN THIS CERTIFICATE IS HEREBY RELEASED
NAME
AUTHORIZED SIGNATURE:
<b>X</b>
DATE RELEASED:
VATE RECEASED;

THE REGISTRAR OF MOTOR VEHICLES HEREBY CERTIFIES THAT AN APPLICATION FOR A CERTIFICATE OF TITLE FOR THE MOTOR VEHICLE DESCRIBED HEREIN HAS BEEN DULY FILED, PURSUANT TO THE PROVISIONS OF THE LAWS OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS, BASED ON THE STATEMENTS OF THE APPLICANT AND THE RECORDS ON FILE WITH THIS AGENCY, THE APPLICANT NAMED IS THE OWNER OF SAID VEHICLE.

THE REGISTRAR OF MOTOR VEHICLES FURTHER CERTIFIES THAT THE VEHICLE IS SUBJECT TO ANY SECURITY INTERESTS SHOWN

anne I Collins

Anne L. Collins Registrar

CONTROL NO. F 2018425 NOT THE TITLE NUMBER

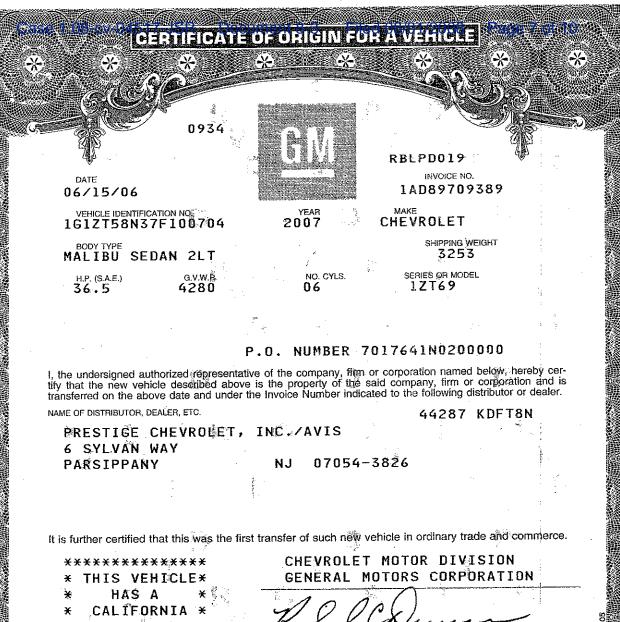
ALTERATION OR ERASURE VOIDS THIS TITL

KEEP IN SAFE PLACE

REGISTRY OF MOTOR VEHICLES

Massachusetts Registry of Motor RMVGaqplication Vol45617-3	Vehicles 3. Number of Docur	nents / Registration Only) FileO 8 21 / 2008 Page 6 TAR (Registration Tele) TAR (Title Add Registration & Title)	
www.mass.gov/rmv 1. REG. EFF. DATE <b>06/21/2005</b> REG. EXP. DATE	☐ TO (Title Only		use)
Registration/Vehicle Information 5. Pla	te Type Degistration Number	7. Previous Title # 8. State	
9. Type of Registration: Passenger Bus Taxi		hicle Identification Number:  1G1ZT58N37F100704	
☐ Trailer ☐ Auto Home ☐ Semi-Trailer ☐ Motorcycle  11. Year	Other 16. Circle Color(s) of	/ehicle 3-Orange 1-Black 2-Blue 17. # of Cylinders/Passengers/Doc	C. AMbeels
2007 CHEV MALIBU 1ZT69	SEDAN 3-Brown 4-Red 5-Yello	w 6-Green 7-White 8-Gray 9-Purple	4 4
18. Transmission 19. Total Gross Weight (Laden) 20. Motor Power Automatic 20. Motor Power Diesel	D- D	Regular DTE Livery Taxi School Pupil	
☐ Manual ☐ Conversion	Hybrid Other If school	ous, is it used exclusively for city, town, or school district? Yes 🗖 No	C
Owner Information 22, Owner #1 MA License. U	se SSN if out-of-state 23. Owner #2 MA L	cense. Use SSN if out-of-state 24. EIN/EID # (see plock 29) 510252246	
25. Owner # 1 Name (Last, First, Middle)		26. Owner # 1 Date of Birth	
27. Owner # 2 Name (Last, First, Middle)		28. Owner # 2 Date of Birth	
29. Corp/Co/Organization Name (see block 24). P.V. HOLDING CORP.	A CONTROL OF THE CONT	30. City/Town Where Vehicle is Principally Gar BOSTON (001)	raged:
31. Mailing Address	City	State Zip Code	··
375 MCCLELLAN HWY., E. BOSTON,	MA 02128		
32. Residential Address	City	State Zip Code	
33A. Lessee's MA License Number or EIN/FID Number. If out-of-	state Lessee, use SSN and date of birth	33B. Lessee's Name:	
	D Y Y		
34. Lessee's Address, City, State, and Zip Code		Sales or Use Tax Schedule	41 ()
Title Data 35. Date of Purchasion6	36. Odometer Reading	56 A. SALE BY LICENSED MOTOR VEHICLE DEALER	
37. New Vehicle 38. Title Type: Clear	Salvage Reconstructed	MA DOR-Registered Dealer EIN/FID #	
Used Vehicle	Theft Prior Owner Retained	radiusted for dealers discount and manufacturer's roba	ate)
39. Primary Salvage Title Brands: 40. Secondary Sa		Less Manufacturer's Excise \$	
Repairable Parts Only		Net Sales Price \$	
Lienholder Information 41.  I/we certify that all liens on this vehicle are listed below	Date of 1st Lien 42. Date of 2nd 46/15/2006	Lien Cess Trade-in Allowance For \$	
43. First Lienholder Code 44. Name	W YORK, AS TRUSTEE	Yr Make Model	
45. Lienholder's Address	M IORR, AS INUSIEE		············
300 CENTRE POINTE DRIVE, VIRGIN	IA BEACH, VA 23462	Faxable Sales Price \$	
46. Second Lienholder Code 47. Name		5% Sales Tax \$	-
48. Lienholder's Address		B. SALES BY OTHER THAN MOTOR VEHICLE DEALE	R
		Gross Sates Price (Froof Required) \$	
hereinbefore named with respect to	eby certifies that it has or will insure or guarantee performance o the motor vehicle hereinbefore described for a period at least	otermingus with	078896
that of such registration under a motor vehicle liability policy, binder or bond which conforms to charge and classification on the effective date of registration are as established by the commissions	the provisions of general laws, Chapter 175, Section 113A, and		
49A. Policy Effective Date: <b>06/21/2006</b>	of Massachusetts	8 Exempt Organization Certificate #	
Policy Change Date:  49B. Manual Class: 49C. Ins. Company & Code:	Licensed Agent	Fee Information	
707 007 ////	Co's Authorized Representative's Signature		
above that have been incurred by the applicant(s), an	ry that there are no outstanding excise tax liabilities on the vi ry member of the applicant's immediate family who is	a member of	
the applicant's household or the business partner of the applicant(s). (We hereby further certify that	t all information contained in this application is true and correct	a member of one best of my Tax 3 CEFT/	
59 Separative of Owner E. In Block 25 or 29. If owner is listed in I	Block 29, signer must also print name.	Total: \$ 81.5 Clerk ID. V	TKX
51. Signature of 2nd Owner From Block 27.		58. Batch No:	Y 0
52. Authorized Dealer (Signatu)e	53. Dealer Reg. No.	- $()$	_
ilister Jisello	a risaliu	59. Clerk/End User Initials.	49675-
54. Seller's Name (Please Print) PRESTIGE PONT-OLDS/AVIS			
55 P. O. BOX 651, PARSIPPANY, NJ 070	054		





\* EMISSION

\* SYSTEM

\*\*\*\*\*

G46115550

(SIGNATURE OF AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE)

(AGENT)

DETROIT

MI 48243-1114

CITY - STATE

1 | | | | |

.

44287

04

045

04

7F100704

SCREEN PRINT TRANSACTION ID: CA8681TJEJJI010817510905314

06/23/2008 09:05 MASSACHUSETTS REGISTRY OF MOTOR VEHICLES UGR1210

TITLE AMEND

FUNCTION: T1A MSG: INQUIRY COMPLETE - DUP 0 LIEN 0 - ENTER ACTION

PLT TYP: PAN REG#: 35VB42 CLR: R

LIC #1 : LIC #2: FID#: 510252246 NEW TTL#:

ACT CD :

F: DOB: OWNER1 NAME L: M : F: M: DOB:

OWNER2 NAME L: CORP/CO NAME : PV HOLDING CORP

MAIL ADDR : 375 MCCLELLAN HWY CITY: E BOSTON ST: MA ZIP 02128-1177

BLDG/APT TITLE PRINT:

MODEL#: YEAR: 2007 MAKE: CHEV MODEL: MALIBU STYLE : SEDAN

CLR : BROWN / CYL : 06 PASS: 5 DOORS : 4 TRAN: A MTR PWR: G

PREV STATE: PREV TITLE :

STATUS/DATE: CANC - 05/08/2008 ENTRY DATE: 06/21/2006 PRINT DATE : 07/07/2006

PURCH DATE: 06/15/2006 ODOM: 6 NEW/USED: N TITLE RTN ST: KY
TITLE TYPE: CLEAR BRAND: REASON CODE:

TITLE TYPE : CLEAR BRAND: REASON CODE :

BANK OF NEW YORK AS TRUSTEE

300 CENTRE POINTE DR

VIRGINIA BEACH VA 23462



New York State Department of Motor Vehicles Certified Document Center/Data Services 6 Empire State Plaza Albany New York 12228

## CERTIFICATION OF NO RECORD FOUND

•					
	Date		June	5.	2008
	Date		0 0.110		
Search Information:					
Name (Last, First, Middle Initial)	Date of Birth		Client Identification N	lumber	Plate Number
**********	******	**	35VB41	2**	******
Street Address	Vehicle Identification I	Number	(from vehicle registrati		
**********	*****	***	*****		
City		State		Zip Code	
***********	*****		NY	* * * *	*****
✓ Vehicle Registration  ☐ Vehicle Ownership  In compliance with your request, and using the search information the records of the Department of Motor Vehicles. I certify that requested.					

EXHIBIT "C"

Certified by,

Commissioner

DS-243 (1/08)

Comments:

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK DAWN BARKER,

Plaintiffs, AFFIDAVIT

- against -

\_\_\_\_X

08 CIV. 4517 (JSR) (JCF)

BRENDA A. ITHIER, PV HOLDING CORP. and AVIS BUDGET GROUP, INC.,

Defendants.

STATE OF NEW JERSEY )ss.: COUNTY OF MORRIS

Joy Reiseman, being sworn, deposes and says:

- I am the Assistant Secretary of PV Holding Corp., with offices at 3 Century Drive, Parsippany, New Jersey 07054. As the Assistant Secretary, I am fully familiar with the business of PV Holding Corp. and its affiliated and related entities, their holdings and business activities.
- 2. PV Holding Corp. and Avis Budget Group, Inc., through its subsidiary Budget Rent a Car System, Inc., are affiliated entities engaged in the business of renting consumer automobiles to the general public under the "Budget Rent a Car" trade name. PV Holding Corp. serves as the nominee titleholder for vehicles rented in 2007 by Budget Rent a Car System, Inc. A review of the rental agreement set forth at Exhibit A reveals that Budget Rent a Car System, Inc. rented a 2007 Chevrolet Malibu bearing Massachusetts license plate 35VB42 to a Brenda Ithier on March 11, 2007. The rental agreement identifies the vehicle rented to Ithier as car

#1496762 which our records reflect bears vehicle identification number 1G1ZT58N37F100704. As set forth on the certified certificate of title from the State of Massachusetts for this vehicle, set forth at Exhibit B, PV Holding Corp. is the registered owner of said vehicle.

3. For the reasons set forth by our counsel, Reardon & Sclafani, P.C., in support of this instant motion, it is respectfully requested that the defendants PV Holding Corp. and Avis Budget Group, Inc. be granted summary judgment dismissing plaintiff's complaint.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 30 day of July, 2008:

NOTARY PUBLIC

DAWN ÁNDREANO Notary Public Of New Jersey My Commission Expires Aug. 22, 2010

UNITED	STATES	DISTRI	CT COUP	Σ.	
SOUTHER	N DIST	RICT OF	NEW YO	DRK	
		<b></b>			X
DAWN BA	RKER,				

Plaintiffs,

AFFIDAVIT

- against -

08 CIV. 4517(JSR)(JCF)

BRENDA A. ITHIER, PV HOLDING CORP. and AVIS BUDGET GROUP, INC.,

Defendants.

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

)ss.:

COUNTY OF MORRIS

Michelle Close, being sworn, deposes and says:

- 1. I am the Records Custodian for Budget Rent a Car System, Inc., a subsidiary of the defendant Avis Budget Group, Inc., maintaining an office at 6 Sylvan Way, Parsippany, New Jersey.
- 2. Annexed as Exhibit A is a true, accurate and correct copy of a rental agreement entered into by Brenda Ithier on March 11, 2007 maintained in the ordinary course of business of Budget Rent a Car System, Inc.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 3 day of July, 2008:

NOTARY

JACQUELINE CHESLOW NOTARY PUBLIC OF NEW JERSEY My Commission Expires Feb. 12, 20 12 Nicholas J. Accurso, Esq. (NA 1853) An Associate with the Firm of REARDON & SCLAFANI, P.C. Attorneys for Defendants 220 White Plains Road, Suite 235 Tarrytown, New York 10591 (914) 366-0201

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK ------X DAWN BARKER,

Plaintiffs,

- against -

08 CIV. 4517(JSR)(JCF)

BRENDA A. ITHIER, PV HOLDING CORP. and AVIS BUDGET GROUP, INC.,

Defendants.

# PRELIMINARY STATEMENT

The defendants PV Holding Corp. and Avis Budget Group, Inc. move this Court pursuant to Rule 56(b) for an order dismissing the plaintiff's complaint based on 49 USC §30106 and New York State Vehicle and Traffic Law §388. As a matter of law, it is submitted, plaintiff's complaint must be dismissed.

#### **JURISDICTION**

This Court has original jurisdiction pursuant to sub-chapter I of Chapter 301 of Title 49, United States Code §30106, the "complete preemption doctrine" and diversity of citizenship. 28 USC §§1331, 1332.

#### ARGUMENT

## POINT I

#### THE PLAINTIFF'S COMPLAINT IS WITHOUT MERIT

New York State Vehicle and Traffic Law §388 imposes vicarious

liability on the owners of automobiles while those automobiles are being operated with the permission and consent of the owner. On August 10, 2005, Congress enacted the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act, 49 USC §30106 (commonly known as the "Graves Amendment") prohibiting the imposition of vicarious liability against owners of motor vehicles and their affiliates who rent or lease their vehicles to the public which are subsequently involved in motor vehicle accidents. Flagler v. Budget Rent a Car System, Inc., 538 F.Supp.2d 557 (EDNY, 2008); Merchants Insurance Group v. Mitsubishi Motor Credit Association, 2008 WL 203195 (EDNY, 2008); Berkan v. Penske Truck Leasing Canada, Inc., 535 F.Supp.2d 341 (WDNY, 2008). The preemptive effect of the "Graves Amendment" on statutes imposing liability on the owners of rental cars has been routinely recognized. Jasman v. DTG Operations, Inc., 533 F.Supp.2d 753 (W.D. Michigan, 2008); Garcia v. Vanguard Car Rental USA, Inc., 510 F.Supp.2d 821 (M.D. Fla., 2007); Dargahi v. Hymas, 2007 WL 2274861, fn. 1 (S.D.N.Y., 2007); Seymour v. Penske Truck <u>Leasing Co., LP</u>, 2007 WL 2212609 (S.D. Georgia, 2007); <u>Jones v.</u> Bill, 10 NY3d 550, NE2d (2008); Hall v. ELRAC, 52 AD3d 262, 859 NYS2d 641 (1st Dept., 2008); Graham v. Dunkley, 50 AD3d 55, 852 NYS2d 169 (2d Dept., 2008); Johnson v. Kling, 48 AD3d 637, 854 NYS2d 648 (2d Dept., 2008).

As the vehicle alleged in the plaintiff's complaint is owned by the defendant PV Holding Corp. (see certificate of title at

Exhibit B) and was rented through its affiliate engaged in the business of renting vehicles to the public, Budget Rent a Car Systems, Inc., and operated by its renter when the accident occurred, the instant action against PV Holding Corp. and its affiliate Avis Budget Group, Inc. is barred pursuant to 49 USC \$30106 and plaintiff's complaint must be dismissed. See Reiseman affidavit.

As an additional ground for dismissal of plaintiff's complaint in favor of the defendant Avis Budget Group, Inc., it is submitted that the submission of the certified title report from the State of Massachusetts at Exhibit B showing that title to the vehicle is in PV Holding Corp. is prima facie proof that the defendant Avis Budget Group, Inc. is not the owner of said vehicle requiring dismissal of the plaintiff's complaint against Avis Budget Group, Inc., even in the absence of federal preemption. See New York Vehicle and Traffic Law §128; Squires v. Mumphrey, 36 AD3d 607, 828 NYS2d 449 (2d Dept., 2007); Marchetti v. Avis Rent a Car, 249 AD2d 518, 672 NYS2d 368 (2d Dept., 1998); Dickerson v. Diaz, 256 AD2d 435, 681 NYS2d 605 (2d Dept., 1998).

## **CONCLUSION**

As a matter of law, the defendants PV Holding Corp. and Avis Budget Group, Inc. are entitled to summary judgment dismissing the complaint.

4

Dated: Tarrytown, New York July 31, 2008

Respectfully submitted,

REARDON & SCLAFANI, P.C. Attorneys for Defendants PV Holding and Avis OFFICE & P.O. ADDRESS 220 White Plains Road, Suite 235 Tarrytown, New York 10591 (914) 366-0204

Bv:

ACCURSO (NA 8153)